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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

CU-04 SCCT-01 SY-05 /079 W
---------- 038981
R 271400Z FEB 76
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2362

UNCLAS MONTERREY 0206

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MX
SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING DEATHS OF POSESIONARIOS

REF: MONTERREY 0190

1. THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 24 WITNESSED A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION MARCH THROUGH STREETS OF DOWNTOWN MONTERREY AND A MASS MEETING IN FRONT OF GOVERNOR'S PALACE TO COMMEMORATE DEATHS OF SIX POSESIONARIOS IN CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE ON FEBRUARY 18, TO PROTEST POLICE BRUTALITY, AND TO DEMAND QUOTE JUSTICE UNQUOTE. PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATION WERE AN ESTIMATED FIFTEEN THOUSAND, INCLUDING LARGE CONTINGENTS FROM ALL OF MONTERREY'S SQUATTER COMMUNITIES AND NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIVES OF SINDICATO, CAMPESINO AND STUDENT GROUPS. AN ABUNDANCE OF RED BANNERS WITH BLACK LETTERING PROCLAIMED SUCH DEMANDS AND CAUSES AS REMOVAL OF GOVERNOR ZORRILLA, INDEMNITY FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MARTYRS OF FEBRUARY 18, PRISON FOR GUILTY POLICE, CONTROL OF INFLATION, DECENT WAGES FOR WORKERS, COMMEMORATION OF MARTYRS OF TLATELOLCO, REFORM OF QUOTE UNREALISTIC UNQUOTE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA, AND REMOVAL OF POLICE SPIES FROM UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

2. GOVERNOR ZORRILLA RELEASED STATEMENT EARLIER IN DAY DENOUNCING QUOTE MERCENARIES AND AGITATORS WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN MONTERREY TO MEDDLE IN LOCAL PROBLEMS UNQUOTE. HE DID NOT APPEAR AT DEMONSTRA-
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TION, AND CROWD REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIS REPRESENTATIVE, THE STATE

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

3. STUDENTS FROM OTHER STATES ASSURED THE THRONG THAT THEIR PROTEST AGAINST ZORRILLA WAS GOING TO BE REINFORCED BY ACTS CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL; SEVERAL SELF-IDENTIFIED NEWSPAPER REPORTERS FROM MEXICO CITY STATED THAT INVESTIGATORS SENT PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WOULD ARRIVE NEXT WEEK TO FIX DEFINITE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS. FOLLOWING A BURNING IN EFFIGY OF POLICE OFFICIAL JUAN URRUTIA PAURA, THE CROWD DISPERSED BY NIGHTFALL.

4. DESPITE DEFINITE EVIDENCE OF ARRIVAL OF OUTSIDE AGITATORS TO ASSIST IN PREPARATION FOR DEMONSTRATION, THE EVENT PASSED WITHOUT VIOLENCE OR EVEN TOO MUCH COMMOTION. HEAVY, VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE. ALSO, THE REGRETABLE FEBRUARY 18 INCIDENT AT THE TIERRA Y LIBERTAD SQUATTER COMMUNITY HAS NOT REALLY CAUGHT MORE THAN TRANSIENT ATTENTION OR INTEREST OF REGIOMONTANO PUBLIC, AND NEWS OF CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS AND STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POSESIONARIO LEADERS APPEARS TO BE SLIPPING INTO BACK PAGES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, SQUATTERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTER00206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0553
From: MONTERREY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976025/aaaaadyb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MONTERREY 190
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING DEATHS OF POSESIONARIOS
TAGS: PINS, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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